

ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 WEEK 11
TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2024

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT



Light the Advent candle



Our final days of Advent, are a time when we can reflect on our Advent journey.

God, thank you for your love.



As we light this candle in your name, we ask you to help us share this love with family and friends this Advent.

Amen





Principal's Message

From our Principal Mr Michael Gavaghan

Dear parents and carers,

As this will be the final newsletter for the year I would like to take the opportunity to thank our school community for your ongoing support of our school.

I thank our staff, who strive to meet the many educational needs that each individual student presents with. They do it with a smile on their face, a friendly manner and exhibit the patience of saints. I hope they enjoy their well deserved rest.

We are fortunate to have the majority of our staff returning for 2025. Jasmine Staunton, Natalie Milanese and Helen Richardson will be moving on to new opportunities. I thank them all for their service to St Andrew's and wish them the best for their future.

We welcome Stephen Silva, David Marshall, and Catherine Scott to our 2025 teaching staff.

Thank you to our students, who give their best each day, striving to be safe, respectful and responsible. They are the reason we get out of bed each day and they bring us great joy. Have a great holiday. I especially thank our graduating class. Thank you for the way you have worked with your teachers to create a positive school culture, especially our student leaders Mila Singh, Kiara Medina, Lachlan Shortt and Gavin Gondra.

The following Year 6 students received awards at last Friday night's Graduation Ceremony:

The Spirit of St Andrew Award, *sponsored by our Parents Association*

Meddy Htoo Sein Mason Miller

Julia Gillard Award, *sponsored by Joanne Ryan MP (Federal Member for Lalor)*

Amelia Douglas

Endeavour Award, *sponsored by Tim Pallas MP (State Member for Werribee)*

Lachlan Shortt

Maureen Cooney Award, *sponsored by the Cooney Family*

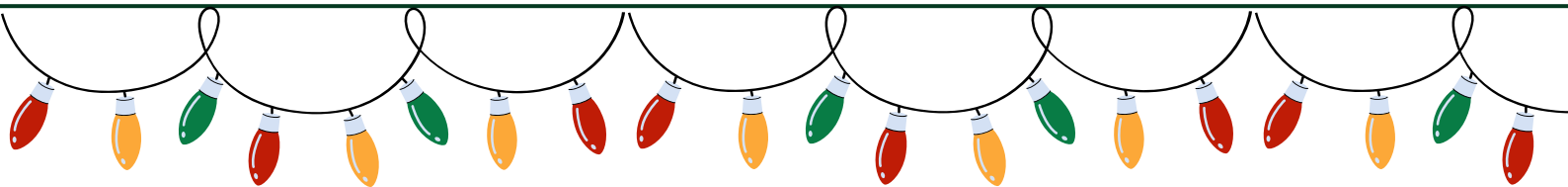
Stella Veal

Margaret Raw Excellence Awards, *sponsored by the Society of St Vincent De Paul*

Lola Richards Tyrese Forty

School Sports Victoria Award, *sponsored by School Sports Victoria*

Dare Yusuf



I'd like to announce that our 2025 School Captains are **Jia Jeong, Isis Parker, Abel Ellis & Alice De Hoog**. They were chosen from a very deserving shortlist of students who all would have been worthy school captains. I congratulate our captains and look forward to working with them in 2025.

Thank you especially to our two parent groups, The School Advisory Council and The Parent Association. Their support is very much appreciated and they make an enormous contribution to the culture we strive to create.

I also take this opportunity to farewell the following families who have had their last child graduate from Yr 6 or who are moving to new schools:

Biong Family, Blachford Family, Burnett Dobbie & McCormack Family, Chan Family, Chawla Family, Deng Family, De Jong Family, Dyne Family, Elliott Family, Gaskin Family, Gustovic Family, Htoo Sein Family, Huang Family, Kelekolio Family, Kotuisuva Family, Majur Family, Miller Family, Mutaka Family, Odion Family, Pearson Family, Riak Family, Roswell Pasada Family, Sharma Family, Shortt Family, Sta Cruz Family, Sweeny Family, Thingal Family, Tran Family, Van Earle Family, Warnakulasuriya Family, Yusuf Family

Thank you for adding to St Andrew's culture and history. Best wishes for the future.

Foundation students return on Wednesday 29 January 2024, Years 1-6 on Thursday 30 January. Beginning of the year 3 Way Conversations will be held on Wednesday 29 January and the afternoon of Thursday 30 January.

The school office reopens on Tuesday 28 January.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please stay safe over the holidays.

Regards,

Michael Gavaghan



Book your 2025 Three Way Conversation



School
Interviews

Scan here



Three-Way Conversations are scheduled for **29th and 30th January 2025**. Scan the QR code or visit the link below to book your meeting.

Event Code

82WV8

School Saving Bonus



The \$400 School Savings Bonus was announced some time ago by the Victorian Government. In Catholic Schools it is made available to families who qualify for CSEF. Families with a valid Health Care Card must have applied to the school for CSEF funding to qualify. If you have not done so already, families will be able to apply early next year and still receive the School Start Bonus.

The School Start Bonus will be applied to 2025 school costs once we have been directed how to apply it by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools. Families who receive the bonus will see a reduction in their school costs next year.

Term 4

School Closure Days >

Date	Camp Australia program
Wednesday 18 December	Yes
Thursday 19 December	No
Friday 20 December	No

Mini Vinnies

A message for SVDP

As 2024 draws to a close, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the schools that have partnered with the St Vincent de Paul society this year. The society was able to provide \$6.9 million in assistance to Australians struggling with the rising cost of living in 2024, and contributions we received from schools played an invaluable part in that. Your compassion and commitment have made a meaningful difference in your community, and we couldn't be more grateful.



Our News:

On Monday 9th December the Mini Vinnies team helped sort toys in the Penola Hub with members of SVDPW. This was an important process for the students so they could see their effort of collection being made into packages for those in need.

Their term 4 fundraiser collecting food donations for the Christmas Appeal in partnership with SVDPW was a wonderful success. A big thank you to the families and staff that donated food items for our community in need.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the following students that were part of the Mini Vinnies Team this year:

Lachlan, Gavin, Amelia, Jack, Natalia, Lily, Maya, Lola, Stella, Vanessa, Efe, Ese and Akwak worked hard following the values of St Mary Mackillop.

Their work in Term 3 saw them raise \$297. The gold coin donation on PJ day, brought books, pencils and other essential resources for the school year for children in disadvantaged communities.

In Term 2 - the team collected items for the Winter Appeal consisting of food, blankets, beanies, scarves and gloves which again were distributed by SVDPW on our behalf.

Our team in term 1 decided to raise money to support females in Nepal with sanitary items.

What a wonderful year.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE GOOD WORK OF OUR MINI-VINNIES.



Catholic Identity News

From our Deputy Principal, Mr Glenn Mugavin

Teaching and Learning about Advent

Our Year 4s have been learning more about Advent. Advent is a liturgical season in the Catholic Church's year, during which we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

We learned about the meaning of Advent and how it is a special time where we remember the birth of Jesus Christ.

"We know that one way to celebrate Advent is through making wreaths. In our class, we created nature wreaths and learned about how each part of the wreath represents something special.

The four coloured candles symbolise hope, joy, peace and love, and the white candle in the middle represents Jesus Christ"

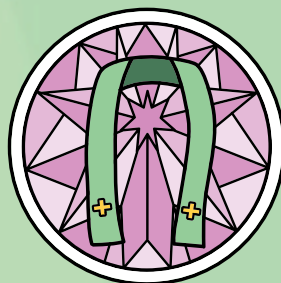
By Luka M, Franklin B and Sienna D



Home Based Religious Education (HBRE) Program at St Andrew's Parish Werribee

Parents of children in the Werribee area who are interested in their child attending the Sacramental Program for 2025 are asked to leave their details at the Parish Office via email werribee@cam.org.au or call 9741 4144.

The program is conducted for children in Grade 3 Pre-Sacrament, Grade 4 Reconciliation, Grade 5 Eucharist and Grade 6 Confirmation. **Please note enrolments close 20th December 2024. Thank you. Benita, HBRE Coordinator.**



St Andrew's Nativity Play and Carols Night



You are warmly
invited to the
**St Andrew's
Nativity Play
and CAROLS**

Saturday 21st December

7pm - St Andrew's Church

followed by FELLOWSHIP

For more information contact

Susanne - 0438 372 952



Community Christmas Carols

Join us weekday evenings 6pm to 8:30pm
from Monday 25th Nov. to Thursday 5th Dec.,
we travel from house to house bringing the
true meaning of Christmas to our parish
families

If you are interested in spreading JOY TO THE
WORLD and singing Christmas Carols, join
the CHRISTMAS CAROLLING team.

If you want us to do caroling in your house.
Please contact Powlin 0408 524 293

Well Being Resources

From our Deputy Principal, Mrs Lisa Black



Activities for the school holidays

Here are some ideas to keep your children entertained and connected during the school holidays.

[Active Holidays - Hosted by Active Wyndham](#)

[What's On at Wyndham City Libraries](#)



Phone Counselling

Open 24/7 - 365 days

Phone counselling is the fastest way to get help and start talking. You can call us on **1800 55 1800**, anytime and for any reason.

It's **FREE** to call - including from your mobile. You can also call from any public phone or landline for free too.

Want to know more about how counselling works? [Check this out!](#)

PE News

From our PE Teacher Ms Sally Taylor

Snr Hoop Time State Finals

Our Yr 5 and 6 Future Stars team participated in the State Finals at the State Basketball Centre in Wantirna Sth on Friday 6th December.

Kawac, Akio, Jonathan, Amelia, Kiraleigh, Peyton, David B, David M and Tymirah, represented St Andrew's on the day.

Our students started the journey along with 771 schools. Winning through each rounds and progressing to the States best 32 teams.

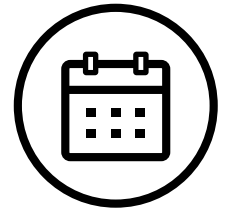
After our pool games and qualifying finals we finished in the top 8 in the State.

An exceptional achievement. We are so very proud of you all. Well done. Special thanks to Bailey Potts (ex student) who coached our team, Miss Go who scored and Mr Gavaghan who drove the bus on the day.

Parents there is also a flyer attached for the school holiday swimming program available at Kingswim in Manor Lakes. It's great value at \$70 for 4 days. Contact Kingswim directly for bookings on 1300 054 647.



2025 TERM DATES



TERM 1	Wed 29th Jan	Foundation Students commence*	8:50am to 1:00pm
	Thurs 30th Jan	Year 1-6 Students Commence	8:50am to 3:15pm
	Thurs 30th Jan	Foundation Early Finish	8:50am to 1:00pm
	Fri 31st Jan	Foundation Early Finish	8:50am to 1:00pm
	Fri 4th Apr	Term 1 Concludes	3:15pm
TERM 2	Tues 22nd Apr	Students Commence	8:50am-3:15pm
	Fri 4th Jul	Term 2 Concludes	1:00pm
TERM 3	Mon 21st Jul	Students Commence	8:50am-3:15pm
	Fri 19th Sept	Term 3 Concludes	1:00pm
TERM 4	Mon 6th Oct	Students Commence	8:50am-3:15pm
	Fri 16th Dec	Term 4 Concludes	1:00pm

*During February, Foundation students attend school Mon, Tues, Thurs & Friday. There is no school Wednesday.

Week beginning Feb 3	Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday
Week beginning Feb 10	Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday
Week beginning Feb 17	Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday
Week beginning Feb 24	Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday
Week beginning Mar 3	Full Week Attendance

School Communication St Andrew's Werribee



Used for:

- Medical Information**
- Reporting Absences**
- Excursion/Camp Permissions**
- Sick Bay Communication**
- Newsletters**
- SMS alerts and Notices**
- Notify School of School Absences**
- Learning Diversity: Personalised Learning Plans and Meeting Minutes**

You will have access to Operoo the day after your child begins at St Andrews. You will receive a log in email from Operoo.

Please download the app.



An app: For parents and teachers to communicate regarding school events or brief queries. Your child's teacher will give you the Remind invite code once your child commences school. Report absences through Operoo only.

School Reports

Directly emailed twice a year.

June & December

School Website

www.sawerribee.catholic.edu.au

- Policies**
- Curriculum**
- New and Events**
- Student Wellbeing**
- Enrolment Information**



School Interviews to be used when requested for Three -Way Conversations- this is through a web address supplied.



CALL
1300 054 647
TO BOOK
YOUR
PLACE

SCHOOL HOLIDAY SWIMMING PROGRAM

Keep your kids active,
entertained and learning
these holidays!

4 DAYS ONLY \$70

6 to 9 Jan and 20 to 23 Jan 2025

king swim

fasttrack



Last week, St Andrew's received a visit from the CFA!





Early Learning Services

Inspiring learning for life

Education and care from nursery to kindergarten

BOOK A TOUR 1800 413 885

 Little Blossoms Child Care Centre

Why you'll love **Little Blossoms Child Care Centre**

We love inspiring young minds! We embrace the concept that children thrive when they're encouraged to explore the world around them and learn about themselves through interactive play.



Proud to be rated Exceeding
'National Quality Standard'



Qualified and long serving team
offering education and care
from nursery to kindergarten



Spacious outdoor areas that
encourage exploration and
learning through play



Daily Preschool program guided
by the Early Years Learning
Framework (EYLF)



Nutritious meals created
daily by our in-house cook
who caters to all dietary
requirements



Stay connected to your child
with regular photos, learning
observations, and updates on
our app



Engaging programs in music
and movement




We welcome special guests
and community members
to the centre based on the
children's interests



BOOK A TOUR

1800 413 885 | 80 - 88 Ballan Road, Werribee

 Open weekdays 6:30am to 6:30pm



Little Blossoms Child Care Centre